

(06)

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND
CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received from the 1st to the 7th of February, 1870.

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THE *Malwa Ukhbar* of the 26th of January alludes to the order passed by the Indore Durbar for the capture of certain "Meena dacoits," &c., &c., who are said to have gone towards Indore.

The *Mujma-ool Bharain* of the 27th of January mentions, on the authority of an Umballa correspondent, that the Governor-General has passed orders to the Government of the Punjab that passes hitherto granted to officers and other travellers proceeding to Cashmere are to be put a stop to. The editor remarks that this order shows that a prohibition has been issued against all Government officers going to Cashmere, or else it shows that the Maharajah is to be freed from the responsibility which those documents entailed on him in regard to the care of each officer's property, &c.

The *Allygurh Institute Gazette* of the 28th of January publishes an account of the festivities, &c., at Benares in honour of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, and gives an ode in Persian, sent through the Allygurh Scientific Society, to His Royal Highness.

A letter headed "Travellers in London" appears, written by Moulvie Syud Ahmed Khan, Bahadoor, C.S.I. :—"We left Marseilles on the 1st of May, in the same good omnibus which brought us to the hotel. The officer of the hotel took charge of our luggage, ticketed the boxes, placed them on the roof;



and, after seeing us comfortably seated in the railway carriage, took leave. We had none of that trouble we experienced when travelling by rail in India."

The writer goes on to describe how the train proceeded slowly from Marseilles, and gave them an opportunity of seeing the green fields, and other beauties of nature, so different from what they had seen of human skill at Marseilles. He admires the fir trees, the canals, the grass plots, fields, and flowers, and says that, all combined, gave him the idea of quite another world, and was quite impossible to describe. He proceeds: "In those green sheets of grass there was a number of red flowers here and there shining like so many stars in the heavens; thousands of beegahs of land were covered with grapes grown as potatoes are grown at Meerut, Futtehgurh, and Ghazeepore; whole sheets of roses, too; and the wonderful little mounds of earth with grape-vines growing like so many creepers, running up high, round, and oblong towers,—the great charm being that they were all green and bearing fruit. The following lines from Sadí are applicable to them:—

‘Khud rah Miná bar khakish rekhta  
Akd suraiya bar takush awekhta.’”

He proceeds to describe how they travelled along, alighting at a station, occasionally taking tea, eating fruit, and laughing and chatting along, and arrived at Paris on the morning of May 2nd; how they went to Meuricess' hotel, which they preferred on account of the servants speaking English. But, after the hotel at Marseilles, the writer does not think much of Meuricess' hotel at Paris. He says:—

“I took my dinner; but, in consequence of the day being Sunday, I did not go out in search of pleasure, which was a mistake, as in Paris all the shops are open on Sunday, but I took the hotel Commissioner with me and went for a walk.

“Fronting the hotel was a very large meadow railed all round; there were rivulets, marble statues, flowers in full bloom, beautiful trees, thousands of chairs at regular distances,



plenty of stalls for refreshment, and ladies and gentlemen promenading about ; after seeing all which, and admiring it, I told the Commissioner to take me to some other nice place, and he mentioned Versailles, which was open, and is always open the first Sunday in every month. We proceeded on foot ; but, having already walked a good deal, I felt tired out, yet walked on – lost in wonder and admiration at everything I saw. Sometimes I felt inclined to give in, as I was tired ; but on went the Commissioner, while I kept wondering what ‘ Versailles ’ meant, and how long it would take us to reach it. At length, calling upon God, we entered a large door-way, where there was a dense crowd of people going into another door-way. The Commissioner stopped, went to get tickets, and said, ‘ let us go.’ I then felt sure that the door we entered was the Versailles. Then we saw a most extensive and beautiful railway station, with the train ready to start, seeing which I became quite troubled, having been in a train all night, and then walking about until I was tired ; but the Commissioner had already taken tickets. The carriages here are double, the first class go inside, the second class on the roof. We had second class tickets, and when I found that we were to sit on the roof I became still more troubled at the idea of 30 miles more under the circumstances ; but on we went, and when I saw the nice houses and pleasant scenery, I soon forgot my troubles, and thought that the Commissioner had acted wisely in placing us on the roof. My heart gladdened, and I said it would be well if we were going a greater distance. At length we arrived at Versailles.

“ A short distance from the station we came upon a door or iron-railed gate, through which we saw that there were houses and gardens beyond, and then we discovered that these were the places where the former kings of France used to reside. Even now they are well furnished, and open to the public on the first Sunday in every month,” &c., &c. Then follows a description of the place, which is described as the residence of the King of Versailles :



“Formerly this was but an open plain; but King Louis XIII., happening to be hunting in the neighbourhood, found a hut, where he rested and took quite a fancy to the place, which he purchased from ‘Francis deGrand, Archbishop,’ and in the year 1632 built a small palace there.” The writer here describes the masons (or architects) who have the credit of building these palaces, &c., &c. He proceeds: “Near the door of this building, which up to now was closed, there were many well-dressed persons, male and female, standing; and after awhile the order came for the doors to be opened, and we all went in. I thought I had entered Paradise—all was so beautiful within. I was lost in astonishment, and thought of the great and well-known canal of the red palace at Delhi, which ran from the Dewan Khas to the Rung Mahul, and in the waters of which I at one time sported and played; also the tank of the Matab Bagh, where some 300 fountains played, was brought freshly to my mind. Without exaggerating in the least, the only difference was such as there is between the most handsome and the most ugly man. The buildings here and those in our own country are, in consequence of the difference in the climate, air, and water, on quite a different scale, but quite in keeping with the climate, &c., of the country.”

The writer goes on to say that he has not yet seen any buildings in England equal to the Taj Mahul-ki-Rouza and the Kutb-ki-Lat, which reflect great honour on Hindoostan.

After viewing the outside, he proceeds to mention the inside of the building which appears to have struck him as even still more wonderful. He says, “I rubbed my eyes, and looked on to see whether it was all a picture, or whether the figures I saw were living souls,” &c., &c.

After visiting the rooms, and seeing “the one in which Louis XIV. held his durbars,” the writer went into the dressing-room where His Majesty used to robe: “This room was furnished with all sorts of pictures, and at the end was



the bed on which the King died in 1715—the bed still there, showing the frailty of all earthly things, and calling out ‘Louis! where art thou that thy bed lies thus empty?’” He proceeds to say that the “Durbar-room of Louis XIV. is three hundred and forty feet wide (long?) and forty-two feet in height, with seven large arches,” &c.

He proceeds to mention the beautiful paintings in the picture gallery; and particularly the life-size portraits of Napoleon the First’s victories and battles, the crusade, room-pictures, &c., &c.

The pictures are described as lifelike, and indicative of the bravery, energy, &c., of the French nation. He goes on to say: “In all this gallery of pictures there was but one blemish which astonished me very much, as I could not understand how such a brave soldierly and civilized nation could allow such a record to remain in opposition to all their other good works. Among those delineating the inland fights, is one representing the capture of the women of Emam Abdul Kadir. The women are represented riding in camel litters, the French soldiers have made the camels sit down, and upset the litters, from which the women are falling, with torn clothing, and the soldiers pointing their bayonets at them as if they were about to kill them. How does this become the French to give such a picture a place in their palace? This, or rather the act represented, of throwing these women out of their litters, is a remembrance of French bravery. What! to expose a naked woman,—allowing that such had ever been done,—was it in accordance with French civilization?”

“Emam Abdul Kadir was a real and brave soldier when he was King of Algeria, and the esteem and respect in which he was held by the people have not been lessened without deceit,” &c., &c. The writer goes on to say that Abdul Kadir fought bravely for twenty years, and was at length defeated; but that his fame, honour, and glory have not been lessened by



such defeat, and that such pictures only add to his courage and resolution, &c., &c.

Allusion is then made to the pictures representing the release of Emam Abdul Kadir by the present Emperor Napoleon, which picture is said to show the great wisdom and generosity of the French, and particularly of the Emperor Napoleon: "The King (Emperor?) himself is releasing him. The figures are as large as life. Near the Emperor stand Abdul Kadir and his mother, with whom Napoleon is shaking hands and passing the order for her son's release." The writer says that in this picture all the glory and civilization of the nation is portrayed.

He then describes how he returned to the hotel at Paris by railway, and found his servant, who had been left behind, "standing at the hotel door in a state of great anxiety and crying, because he was not aware of the cause of our long absence."

The *Rohilkhund Ukhbar* of the 29th of January alludes to a discussion going on just now in the Calcutta University concerning the honours, or scholastic titles, necessary to bestow upon Hindoostanee students. The writer says that it is the opinion of the Honorable Sir W. Muir that it is sufficient for them to read up the "Ungraize Artés" if with it they acquire, in the language of the country, certain grades, &c., &c.

The *Julwatoor* publishes the address of Sir Donald MacLeod on the occasion of the opening of the University College at Lahore, in which he, Sir Donald, points out the great difficulties he had to contend with in establishing the University; how the much-needed help was long denied, but that at length the Nobles and Chiefs of the Punjab came forward and supported the measure so necessary for the advancement of education. Sir Donald also alludes to the rewards given by Sir W. Muir to those who compile good works, and says that the advance of education in the North-Western Provinces is much greater by comparison than in the Punjab; also



to the pecuniary advantages the former enjoys, and concludes by trusting that the two Universities of the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab will flourish, and that no opposition will exist between them, &c., &c.

Under the heading "Meerut," this paper remarks that the winter season is a rare and wonderful Governor, who only remains four months below, and passes the rest of his time in pleasure-seeking at Cashmere or in the hills: "And thus, for instance, preparations are already being made for a flight to Simla. Moreover, the news has come from the heat of the sun that the *line doree* (camp flags) have been sent on."

The *Bhiddia Bilass* of the 15th of January, the *Gwalior Gazette* of the 16th, the *Sorial Science Congress* of the 21st, the *Dubdubba Sekundree* of the 24th, the *Unjumun Hind* of the 29th, and the *Khair Khwah Punjab* of the 4th week of January, do not require special notice. The latter paper remarks that the Government of Madras has set aside one lakh of rupees (£10,000) from the treasury to defray the cost of the festivities attendant on the reception of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, and that it is expected there will be grand doings.

The *Educational Gazette* of the 30th of January notices the durbar held at Agra by the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, on which occasion His Honor is said to have delivered an excellent address in Urdu exhorting all the Chiefs and gentlemen there present to use their best endeavours to afford encouragement to the education of native females as well as males, alluding to the rewards given to the compilers of books, and impressing upon his hearers the great importance of education to the people generally.

The same paper mentions that the *Rajgans* of Lucknow have caused to be manufactured a most beautiful Hindu sword, studded with jewels and valued at two lakhs of rupees (£20,000) for presentation to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. The editor remarks that this is not intended as a *nazrána*, but



a curiosity to be presented by the grandees of Lucknow to this Prince of exalted rank ; and, as in lieu or exchange for a *ndazr* a *khillat* is always given, and no arrangement has been made for presenting *khilluts* : besides it had been already settled that none were to be given or taken.

The *Karnama Hind* of the 21st of January makes some remarks concerning the settlement of the Deputy Commissioner of Lucknow upon certain lands given to the citizens or residents for the purpose of making gardens, &c. The writer says that the people have expended thousands of rupees in levelling this land, and that now the Deputy Commissioner has fixed the rent at from one to four rupees per beegah under certain conditions on three years' lease. Some persons have accepted the land on these terms ; but others have found much fault with the arrangement, as they consider that after expending so much money on the land they had a right to expect to retain possession of the benefits free of tax for ever, as they might have devoted the money expended on the land to the purchase of a village, which would have yielded thousands of rupees in the way of profits. The writer continues : " It will not be surprising if these people unite and make their case known to the Chief Commissioner, who will afford them justice ; but such a thing as unity among Hindoostanees is far distant, and this is the cause of so much calamity amongst them."

The same paper alludes to the Bye-laws of the Municipal Committee of Lucknow, which have hitherto been considered legal, and have been accepted as such, being now questioned, inasmuch as that the issue of a certain case in the Court of Small Causes goes to prove them illegal, and has not allowed their ruling to stand. The writer says that this has caused considerable sourness in the minds of the people ; and, if the arrangements of the city are not carried on according to these rules, the brokers, agents, and all such people will effect their object, and considerable loss to purchasers, disturbances, &c., will be the result : " The authorities ought to look well into



this, for to abolish or do away with the Bye-laws will be productive of disturbances."

Under the heading "New State of Affairs," allusion is made to some dispute about a house in the Gondah district, which house is said to have been purchased by an Assistant Commissioner—one Syud Safdar Hoossain Khan, in the Revenue Department—with the sanction of the Chief Commissioner, but which house "as usual remained in possession of Mr. Alexander, Inspector of Police, who did not approve of the Assistant Commissioner purchasing the house; and when the latter gave him notice to quit, he took no notice," &c., &c. The writer goes on to relate how a correspondence sprang up, and at last the Assistant Commissioner warned the Inspector of Police that if the house was not immediately vacated, the affair would be put into Court; how the Inspector got hold of a bad character in the shape of a chuprassee, got up a charge of bribery against the nephew of the Assistant Commissioner, &c., &c.; how the Chief Commissioner during his tour happened to proceed to Gondah, and how the case was brought to his notice, and an inquiry instituted which resulted in the fact becoming apparent that the Inspector and the Assistant had both acted illegally, and that if such subterfuge was resorted to among such officers there could be no confidence reposed in them by the people, and no security or contentment. "The Inspector was ordered to be changed, and the chuprassee dismissed; it is possible that the Assistant will now claim damages." The editor adds, "Oh, Holy God! by the former arrangements of the Police, the supposition was that they were in the habit of getting up cases against the wealthy classes and giving the authorities the trouble of investigating them, consequently the first rule was put aside and this new one introduced, from which the above case in the Gondah district has emanated, and those who hold appointments have been put in great fear; but we are sure that the Chief Commissioner will punish those who bring such false charges against respectable men, in order that an example may be made."



The *Bhiddia Bilass* of the 15th of January, the *Gwalior Gazette* of the 23rd, the *Nusseem Jounpore* of the 1st of February, and the *Ukhmil-ool Ukhbar* of the 2nd, do not call for special notice.

The *Oudh Ukhbar* of the 1st of February alludes to the recent extravagances of the Chief of Ulwur. It is said that the treasure chest is quite empty ; and, although His Highness' establishment has been unpaid for some time, he purchased goods to such an extent from the merchants of Calcutta that it was with great difficulty he was allowed to leave on his return home. In this dilemma it is said that the Political Agent (Col. Blair) of Rajpootana stood security for payment of one lakh and twenty-five thousand rupees, at one per cent. in two months, which sum was borrowed from Seth Gobind Dass Radha Keshen—the news of the raising of this loan having been telegraphed to the Calcutta firm meanwhile: “And now,” adds the writer, “by the oppression of this Chief the ryots are in a most lamentable condition, and the result cannot be good.”

The *Sholatoor* of the 1st of February mentions that as the Amir Sher Ali would not allow the Prince of Bokhara to remain in Cabul, he has made arrangements to do battle with the Afghans.

The *Lawrence Gazette* of the 4th of February does not call for special notice.

The *Abhaiyat Hind* of the 1st of February, with reference to some frauds practised by one Dada Baboo, who appears to be connected with the railway, says that this year's *Mela* has afforded many such opportunities, and mentions one Station Master who, seeing such crowds anxious to start by train, supplied a friend of his with a number of tickets, which were sold outside the Station for Rs. 6 each, the proper price being only Rs. 2 each. “By this means,” adds the writer, “he was enabled to collect some thousands of rupees in two or three days. We hear that a Fakir addressed him as follows: “Well, brother, do your worst on us now; it will be my turn some day,



when you will suffer for this. You will pass death's door looking at me, and I won't let you put your foot in that place of rest."

The *Oordoo Dehli Gazette* of the 5th of February, and the *Moofid Am* of the 1st, do not require special notice.

The *Moofid-ool Anam* of the 3rd of February remarks that at Loodiana Colonel Elliot goes the rounds in person with the assessors, and with great care superintends the vaccination of children, to which no one offers any objection. This gentleman generously provides a few rupees' worth of sweetmeats for the children, who become quite glad, and at once allow themselves to be vaccinated.

The *Mujma-ool Bharain* of the 4th of February, and the *Punjabee Ukhbar* of the same date, do not require special notice.

The *Benares Ukhbar* of the 27th of January does not require particular notice.

The *Marwar Gazette* of the 24th of January alludes to the desire evinced by certain merchants to establish railways and steamships in China, which the King of Belgium, who has been in China, is inclined to encourage and aid in. The editor expresses surprise at this, and says, "let us see how this will be carried out, as the acts of the Chinese do not display this desire," &c., &c.

Referring to the statement that a newspaper has been started at Dacca for the special perusal of native females, and that English ladies are assisting in the work, the editor is of opinion that the Bengali females are very fortunate, that female education in Bengal will prosper, and, "like the women of England, freedom will be the portion of the Bengali women. Even now native women have gone to England accompanying certain Baboos."

The *Kabbuchan Sudha* of the 4th of February does not require special notice.



The *Samai Bin Aude* of the 1st of February, alluding to a rumour that jail prisoners who now work inside jails will in future work outside, says, "may this turn out true, and the rule be generally established; for, instead of the comfort and ease they enjoyed inside the jails, they will probably have to labour a little, which is but just."

Concerning the custom of appointing "jurymen," or "assessors," the case of the Government *versus* Omesh Chund is cited to show the absurdity of allowing it to continue. The editor thinks it shameful that a guilty man should escape, or an innocent one suffer through the vagaries of assessors; but at the same time he is of opinion that Judges do not always decide cases on the opinion of assessors, and that when such custom is enforced, much evil will result from it.

Alluding to the periodical tours of Civil Officers through their districts, the Jubbulpore paper is quoted as authority for the fact that the Commissioner is of opinion that such tours are but too often taken for sporting purposes, or for the purpose of indulging in the sports of the field. The editor of this paper thinks that on this subject there are one or two things to be said; first, that these tours are generally taken in districts which abound in game, and therefore they are pleasant journeys; but, secondly, there may be a good deal of trouble and inconvenience involved to suitors, "as if they do not appear at the proper time, and a case is lost or gained by non-appearance, no matter how much of right there may be on the side of the loser, who shall say what sorrow it may bring," &c.

The writer adds that the real object of these tours is laid down in the Guide of the Sudder Board, but that the authorities do not pay much attention to these rules. He is, however, sure that the Commissioner will always look to it.

The *Benares Ukhbar* of the 3rd of February does not require special notice.



The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report, viz.:—

| No. | NAME OF PAPER.                         | WHERE PUBLISHED.  | DATE.       | WHEN RECEIVED. |
|-----|----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
|     |                                        |                   | 1870.       | 1870.          |
| 1   | <i>Malwa Ukhbar,</i> ...               | Indore, ...       | Jany., 26th | Febry., 1st    |
| 2   | <i>Mujma-ool Bharain,</i> ...          | Loodiana, ...     | " 27th      | " 1st          |
| 3   | <i>Allygurh Institute Gazette,</i> ... | Allygurh, ...     | " 28th      | " 1st          |
| 4   | <i>Rohilkhund Ukhbar,</i> ...          | Moradabad, ...    | " 29th      | " 2nd          |
| 5   | <i>Julwatoor,</i> ...                  | Meerut, ...       | " 30th      | " 2nd          |
| 6   | <i>Bhiddia Bilass,</i> ...             | Jummoo, ...       | " 15th      | " 3rd          |
| 7   | <i>Gwalior Gazette,</i> ...            | Gwalior, ...      | " 16th      | " 3rd          |
| 8   | <i>Social Science Congress,</i> ...    | Jeypore, ...      | " 21st      | " 3rd          |
| 9   | <i>Dubdubba Sekundree,</i> ...         | Rampore, ...      | " 24th      | " 3rd          |
| 10  | <i>Unjumun Hind,</i> ...               | Lucknow, ...      | " 29th      | " 3rd          |
| 11  | <i>Khair Khwah Punjab,</i> ...         | Goojranwalla, ... | 4th week.   | " 3rd          |
| 12  | <i>Educational Gazette,</i> ...        | Agra, ...         | " 30th      | " 4th          |
| 13  | <i>Karnama Hind,</i> ...               | Lucknow, ...      | " 31st      | " 5th          |
| 14  | <i>Bhiddia Bilass,</i> ...             | Jummoo, ...       | " 15th      | " 5th          |
| 15  | <i>Gwalior Gazette,</i> ...            | Gwalior, ...      | " 23rd      | " 6th          |
| 16  | <i>Nusseem Jounpore,</i> ...           | Jounpore, ...     | Febry., 1st | " 4th          |
| 17  | <i>Ukmil-ool Ukhbar,</i> ...           | Delhi, ...        | " 2nd       | " 4th          |
| 18  | <i>Oudh Ukhbar,</i> ...                | Lucknow, ...      | " 1st       | " 5th          |
| 19  | <i>Sholatoor,</i> ...                  | Cawnpore, ...     | " 1st       | " 5th          |
| 20  | <i>Lawrence Gazette,</i> ...           | Meerut, ...       | " 2nd       | " 5th          |
| 21  | <i>Abhaiyat Hind,</i> ...              | Agra, ...         | " 1st       | " 5th          |
| 22  | <i>Noor-ool-Absar,</i> ...             | Allahabad, ...    | " 1st       | " 5th          |
| 23  | <i>Oordoo Delhi Gazette,</i> ...       | Agra, ...         | " 5th       | " 5th          |
| 24  | <i>Moofid Am,</i> ...                  | Agra, ...         | " 1st       | " 6th          |
| 25  | <i>Moofid-ool Anam,</i> ...            | Futtehgurh, ...   | " 3rd       | " 7th          |
| 26  | <i>Mujma-ool Bharain,</i> ...          | Loodiana, ...     | " 3rd       | " 7th          |
| 27  | <i>Punjabee Ukhbar,</i> ...            | Lahore, ...       | " 4th       | " 7th          |
| 28  | <i>Ukhbar Benares,</i> ...             | Benares, ...      | " 27th      | " 2nd          |
| 29  | <i>Marwar Gazette,</i> ...             | Jodhpore, ...     | Jany., 24th | " 3rd          |
| 30  | <i>Kabbuchan Sudha,</i> ...            | Benares, ...      | " 24th      | " 4th          |
| 31  | <i>Samai Bin Aude,</i> ...             | Nynsee Tal, ...   | Febry., 1st | " 5th          |
| 32  | <i>Ukhbar Benares,</i> ...             | Benares, ...      | " 3rd       | " 7th          |

(True translation,)

GEORGE WAGENTREIBER,

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Upper India.



